

Boulder Daily Camera, Volume 28, May 8, 1918  – Miss Elsie Benedict Starts The [Open Forum Here \[ARTICLE\]](#) [Back to search result list](#)

Miss Elsie Benedict Starts The Open Forum Here

At the open meeting of the Woman's club, held at the court house last evening, the citizens enjoyed the privilege of listening to a most inspiring talk by Mrs. Elsie Lincoln Benedict, herself, although she is opposed to the practices of the so-called militant suffragettes, a forcible example of the masterful achievements of womankind in these stirring days.

"The War," to use her own words, has advanced the status of woman more in these four strenuous years than she could have gained in as many centuries by the ordinary process of evolution." And no small part of woman's victory in matters civic and political, it might be added, is due to this western born woman, who sweeping the east like "the voice of one crying in the wilderness" roused the most indifferent statesmen to an acknowledgement of the vital part woman is destined to play in the regeneration of mankind.

Mrs. Benedict claims, and anti-

pates the active co-operation of all progressive men in the crusade being waged for equal rights, and her talk was aptly prefaced by brief speeches by the mayor, the secretary of the Commercial association, the president of the Lions club, and other prominent civic leaders.

Following Mrs. Benedict's lecture, a movement was inaugurated looking to the establishment in Boulder of the Open Forum, which, stimulated by the urgent necessity of community work during the great world struggle is rapidly being recognized as an invaluable factor in the advancement alike of local thought and of national life. It was voted as the sense of the meeting that a committee be appointed from among the various civic organizations of the city, to promote the early inauguration of such an open forum, the Ministerial Alliance, the city Teachers club, the daily press, and other five civic ac-

tivities all being requested to join with the Commercial association and the Lions club to assist the Woman's club in furthering the movement.

Mrs. Benedict condemned the militant suffrage and the picketing, giving as her reason that the attitude of those members of the sex savored too much of Prussianism, the symbol of force. She outlined the activities of women at the present day, their work for the Red Cross, their support of the men in the trenches.

Arthur Brooks Baker, a prominent Denver newspaper man, addressed the audience on the importance of the forum in Boulder. He urged that once the forum was established, members be tolerant of the speakers who appeared, giving heed to views expressed rather than the cut of their clothes or facial expression.